

May Long-weekend Cruise – May 17 – May 22, 2006

Departed Mission Harbour - Wednesday 1300

Day One – May 17 – Reid Island, Clear and Calm

Beautiful sunny day to cruise down the river. Ten knots with 1600 RPM. Arrived at Sand Heads and the tide was just beginning to flood. Only sand showing on the mud flats on the other side of the breakwater. The Strait was a bit lumpy as we headed for Porlier.



We changed course and headed for Active but as we got out further we were able to change the heading back to Porlier and arrived there when the flood tide was about 4 knots. As we came through, a big bunch of seals were frolicking in the water just as we cleared the Pass. We slowed down to idle speed and watched them. Several ventured very close to the boat, snorted at us and then flipped back underwater. Kona most upset by this invasive behavior. We decided because

the northwesterlies were predicted to be very light that we could anchor on the west side of Reid Island. After anchoring we took Kona to shore and returned to enjoy another DVD of Mammals with our dinner. We retired at 2200 with plans to dive at Porlier next day.



Day Two Thursday, May 18 – Baynes Bay, Porlier Pass

Woke up at 900 to a beautiful sunny day and after breakfast took Kona to shore on

Rose Islets at north tip of Reid Island. The first islet we stopped at was an ecological reserve and two gulls sitting side by each were sitting like sentinels as we beached the



boat to take their picture. We continued on to the most northerly islets and got out. Many gulls sunning there did not appreciate our landing on their island either. CA found a bucket full of oysters as the tide began to lower. We returned to the Sea Foam, had lunch and made away for Baynes Bay in Porlier Pass to dive at Alcalá Point. Once we anchored we quickly

got everything ready and headed off to the dive spot. The tide was still ebbing so we

went around the corner and headed down Trincomali Channel and tied the boat off just



north of the dock there. After a good dive we return to the Sea Foam, picked up Kona and headed for Dionisio Bay to let Kona run around. We played with her in the water fetching sticks and relaxed on the beach and enjoyed the gorgeous sunny calm day. We returned to the Sea Foam, had dinner, shore duty and retired to read and sleep by 2200.

Day Three Friday, May 19 – North Cove, Thetis Island North

Another nice day with more cloud to

keep us cool. After breakfast and shore duty we headed for the north end of Thetis to anchor in North Cove to try a dive off of Miami Islets. Once anchored we prepared to go for a short kayak ride out to the proposed dive site. We paddled out to the Ragged Islets and then to Fraser Point and along the shore line back to our anchorage. CA found a mussel “clump” off a hanging log and had to collect some. We returned to dive and after returning from a disappointing dive we relaxed, had dinner and retired.



Day Four Saturday, May 20 – James Bay, Prevost Island



Up by 1000 and had a rolling start to the day as a sailboat and his friends in a big Bayliner came barreling into the bay to tie up and secure while the sailboat dealt with a leak coming through his rudder. Oso Nice was the sailing vessel and the Mirage was the motor vessel assisting him during his dilemma. Vessel assist was on scene to help out and the Mirage left. CA hailed the Mirage on the radio and asked him to leave

slower than he came in now that his emergency was over. After breakfast and shore duty we headed for Prevost Island to dive around the corner from James Bay at Peile Point. The southerlies were blowing strong down the Trincomali Channel and we were happy to take the five foot waves off our bow. The Sea Foam handled very well. We cut across between the Secretaries and



Wallace Island to try to improve the waves but it was the same on that side as well. We took a peek at the anchorage between the Secretaries and a 50 foot motor vessel was in there and it looked interesting. CA wants to go in there next time we're in the Gulf Islands. We reached James Bay, took Kona for a run through the forest and returned to get ready to dive. We returned to our anchorage, had a quick chat with a group on the trawler MV Otter II and two commercial boats relaxing and got ready for dinner and relaxed. After dinner we watched some Tina Turner and retired after late shore duty for Kona.



Day Five Sunday, May 21 – Bedford Channel, McMillan Island - Fort Langley

Departed at 830 to make it through Active Pass and arrival at Sand Heads while flooding. Pleased to find the winds from the south very light. Easy relaxed crossing. Had a phone call from Margot onboard the Sitka this morning and passed her as we entered Sand Heads. She took pictures of us and we of her and Bob. We arrived at Sand Heads at



1130 and with a flood tide in the river we were doing 5.8 knots as we headed for home. Captain spoke to Kodiak on the radio and he asked if we had seen the sail boat on the rocks at Danger Reef just north of the Miami Islets while anchored at Thetis. It was quite possibly the same sailing vessel, Oso Nice, that barreled in to get behind the breakwater in North Cove. We decided to make a full day of it and skip our usual stop at the Gillnetter dock and

head for Fort Langley instead. Mark and April called and we made plans to meet them there around 1800. As we approached New Westminster our speed went to 4.5 knots as the river narrowed. As we approached the Port Mann Bridge we were back at 5 knots. At 1600 we had a call from Mark and April saying that because it had started to rain they decided to take a rain check on the visit. When we arrived in Fort Langley at 1800 and anchored we were remarking at how fast the current was. The Captain put an extra security rope on the anchor because of the pull against it. The chain was jumping the sprockets on the winch. Kona and the Captain went to shore and CA stayed behind and waited on edge. It was like being anchored in the Mississippi River or Gabriola Pass with a 3 knot current! The rain gave it an even more ominous look. When the Captain

returned with Kona we settled down, had dinner and celebrated our safe return to home water. Kona had her last shore duty and we retired at 030.

Day Six Monday, May 22 – Mission Harbour, Home Port

We slept in and enjoyed the sound of the water rushing past the hull from our stateroom. Only one log hit us just before we got up at 1030. The Captain took Kona to shore after breakfast and we weighed anchor and headed for home at 1245.



Still Water ashore next to Salmon River Pumping Station – Sea Foam at anchor in 3 kt current

As we left Bedford Channel behind McMillan Island we put the Sea Foam in neutral and determined that we were in fact, in a 3 knot current. It was an uphill climb in the river. We averaged 4.5 knots most of the way.

When we approached Mission Harbour we noticed right away the high water. The current was running its usual 3 kts but abated as soon as we were within the harbour confines. Home at last at approx 1500 after our uphill run. A short cruise but well worth it. Everything ran well, ship, scuba and kayaks - we are ready for the summer.